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DHHS Opens H1N1 Vaccine Supply to All Granite Staters 6 Months and Older

Populations at High-Risk For Complications Remain a Priority for Vaccination

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) today announced all Granite Staters 6 months and older are eligible to receive the H1N1 vaccine. The recent increase in the supply of H1N1 vaccine has enabled DHHS to expand vaccination efforts to the general public.

“We know there are many people who have been waiting for this news,” said Public Health Director Dr. José Montero, “and while this is good news, we continue to strongly encourage those most at risk for complications from H1N1 to get the vaccine, including pregnant women and people between the ages of 6 months and 24 years of age.”

The following high-risk groups are still encouraged to be vaccinated against H1N1:

- Pregnant women
- People living with or caring for infants younger than 6 months old (including partners of pregnant women)
- Anyone between the ages of 6 months and 24 years of age
- Healthcare workers with direct patient contact
- People 25 – 64 years of age with underlying medical conditions

“While influenza-like illness has been decreasing the last couple of weeks, there is the very real possibility we will see another wave of this pandemic,” said Montero. “It is my hope that everyone will make time during the holiday season to get vaccinated, as this is the single best way to protect yourself and your loved ones against the H1N1 flu.”

The vaccine is free and available through healthcare providers and the public and school-based clinics that are being organized through the State’s All Health Hazard Regions. Children younger than 6 months of age are not eligible to receive the vaccine because influenza vaccine is not approved for use in this age